

Kings Christian Collegiate Model United Nations



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Dear King'sMUN 2024 delegates,

We are truly honoured, as this year's Co-Secretary Generals of King'sMUN, to welcome you to our 10th annual conference. The Secretariat has been working hard throughout this school year to deliver you an incredible, in-person conference with a variety of creative committees, experienced chairs, and an overall successful day of debate.

Model United Nations, a reenactment of the function of the United Nations, is designed for students to come together to debate, discuss, and develop creative resolutions to some of the world's most pressing issues that plague our world today. In most committees, students take on the positions of various countries, characters, or political figures to create solutions for both real and fictional issues and crises. We also offer unique committees that explore historical, future, and fictional issues.

In our personal experience with MUN we have developed many valuable skills that we will take with us throughout our lives, such as confidence in public speaking, leadership, and creative problem-solving. Furthermore, MUN promotes lifelong connections, as we are constantly meeting delegates who share similar passions to us in committee sessions. We truly believe that your participation in MUN will guide you throughout your high school journey and beyond.

At King'sMUN, we provide a variety of committees to ensure that we have something of interest for everyone. From very current pressing issues (ie. UNSC and the African Union) and issues in sports (ie. International Cricket Council and WSF) to fictional, yet real, controversies (ie. Barbieland) and issues set in the past (ie. The Manhattan Project). We strive to ensure that there is appeal for a variety of delegates. Whether you have no experience or have been to a multitude of conferences, there is a place at King'sMUN for you!

Once again, we are thrilled to welcome all delegates, new or returning, back to King'sMUN. We hope that you engage in fruitful debate and have an amazing time at King'sMUN 2024.

Sincerely,

Serena Kalsi and Georgia Apostolopoulos

Co-Secretary Generals

King'sMUN 2024

Background:

In order to produce the first nuclear bombs during World War II, the United States launched the top secret Manhattan Project for research and development, with collaboration from Canada and the United Kingdom. The project was started in 1939 as a result of fear that Nazi Germany could be working on producing atomic weapons. In several locations, most notably Los Alamos, New Mexico, scientists, engineers, and military personnel worked together under the leadership of the US Army Corps of Engineers. At the peak of the project, in 1944, the project boasted around 129,000 employees, consisting of about 84,500 construction workers, 40,500 nuclear plant operators, and 1,800 military personnel involved, spending a total of 2.2 billion in the arms race. Physicists like J. Robert Oppenheimer and other members of the international scientific world were instrumental in establishing the theoretical and practical elements of nuclear fission. The first atomic bombs, codenamed "Little Boy" and "Fat Man," were successfully detonated over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, bringing an end to Japan's resistance and triggering the nuclear era. The Manhattan Project is still a controversial and complicated part of history that raised moral concerns about the use of such devastating force and its long term effects on international security (Moral and Ethical Responsibilities - George Iskander, 2022).

Purpose:

During World War II, the Manhattan Project's main goal was to create the first atomic bomb. The project, which was started in reaction to concern that Nazi Germany could be working on developing an atomic weapon, sought to use the concepts of nuclear fission science for military purposes. A massive and unmatched partnership of scientists, engineers, and military people worked toward the bold objective of developing a weapon with a catastrophic capability under the direction of the United States. An aggressive and secret hunt for this technical advance was stimulated by the urgency of the war effort and the geopolitical climate of the day. The successful creation and use of two atomic bombs over Japan in 1945 marked the pinnacle of the Manhattan Project and contributed to the early conclusion of World War II, while it also brought up serious moral concerns about the use of such dreadful weapons. The project's significance goes beyond the limits of the conflict, affecting views on nuclear expansion and weapons control throughout the world and influencing the Cold conflict that followed.

Key players involved:

An extraordinary group of important individuals, including government officials, military commanders, and bright scientists, came together for the Manhattan Project. Scientists like J. Robert Oppenheimer, who is sometimes referred to as the "father of the atomic bomb," oversaw this project as its scientific director and was instrumental in organizing activities at Los Alamos Laboratory. Renowned for his studies on nuclear reactions, Enrico Fermi had a major role in the project's development. As the overall director, military engineer Major General Leslie Groves was responsible for managing the project's construction and logistics. Prominent scientists including Niels Bohr, Richard Feynman, and Leo Szilard also provided their knowledge. Important government personalities, such as Vice President Harry S. Truman and President Franklin D. Roosevelt, provided funds and support for this project. These people combined efforts alongside thousands of scientists, engineers, and labourers resulted in the successful development and use of the first atomic bombs ever.

Concerns/Achievements:

Among the many worries that propelled the Manhattan Project was the possibility that Nazi Germany might create atomic weapons, which made it imperative for the United States to acquire a military edge in World War II. Concerns about ethics and morality, led by individuals like J. Robert Oppenheimer, were crucial in helping scientists deal with the extraordinary deadly potential they were discovering. Uncertainties about the impact of nuclear radiation on the environment and human health surfaced. Since a small group of people made decisions that had a significant impact, the project's secrecy prompted questions about democratic responsibility. The ultimate deployment of atomic bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki sparked intense moral discussions and captured a complex web of moral, political, ethical, and humanitarian issues that influenced how the world viewed nuclear weapons. On the positive side, the successful culmination of the project played a decisive role in accelerating the end of World War II by providing the United States with a strategic advantage. The scientific advancements made during this project laid the foundation for subsequent developments in nuclear technology, energy, and scientific weaponry. Additionally, the project's success solidified the U.S. position as a global superpower during the postwar era, to this day.

Testing:

The testing phase of the Manhattan Project marked a critical moment in the development of atomic weapons. The first experimental test, codenamed Trinity, took place on July 16, 1945, in the desolate desert of Alamogordo, New Mexico. Directed by J. Robert Oppenheimer, the test aimed to assess the feasibility of an implosion-type plutonium bomb. The successful detonation of the Trinity device, equivalent to the explosion of approximately 20,000 tons of TNT, confirmed the viability of the atomic bomb design. The mushroom cloud that rose over the desert symbolized the beginning of a new era, as humanity had harnessed the power of nuclear fission for destructive purposes. The success of the Trinity test paved the way for the subsequent deployment of atomic bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ultimately altering the course of World War II and shaping the geopolitical landscape of the postwar world. The testing phase of the Manhattan Project remains a pivotal moment in history, marking the birth of the nuclear age and raising profound questions about the responsible use and control of such potent weaponry.

Topic 1: Do we trust ourselves for what we are about to do?

The main question at hand is whether we can trust ourselves with the enormous power that scientific and technical developments produce. This concern is echoed by important people participating in the Manhattan Project. This discussion is set against the striking historical background of the Manhattan Project. Following the successful Trinity test, the project's scientific director, J. Robert Oppenheimer, is credited as famously quoting the Bhagavad Gita and saying, "Now I have become Death, the destroyer of worlds." The leadership of this project was deeply concerned with experimental issues and moral responsibilities, as this reflection highlights. Despite reaching the desired strategic result, the choice to drop atomic bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki led to a long-lasting moral discussion over the trustworthiness of mankind in the face of such terrible force. We must critically assess our capacity to use advanced technology in an ethical and responsible manner in light of the unmatched extent of damage, the deaths of civilians, and the long term effects on the environment and human health. This project, and the uses of this project short-term will eventually have a large effect on scientific weapons utilized in future conflicts. The historical legacy of the Manhattan Project serves as a constant reminder of the serious moral dilemmas raised by emerging technologies and the need for us to carefully assess the dependability of our actions.

Questions to Consider (Topic 1)

- How will the deployment of the bomb on Japanese cities affect future international relations?
- How can we take responsibility for our actions?
- How can decisions for similar future projects be more democratic, and analytical?
- Do the short-term effects of deploying this bomb outweigh long-term effects?
- Is it worth destroying the Japanese if the Nazis have surrendered?
- Should actual developers/ scientists in the project have the final decision in the uses of the bomb?
- Are we entirely aware of the harmful effects of the bomb at hand?
- Consider the following statement by Oppenheimer. “When I came to you with those calculations, we thought we might start a chain reaction that would destroy the entire world.” Consider the answer to this question, in accordance with your position.

Topic 2: What do we do with the aftermath of weapon use?

The topic at hand is the fallout from the moral implications of using weapons, especially in light of the historical circumstances surrounding the Manhattan Project. The 1945 dropping of the atomic bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki altered the path of history permanently and sparked a heated discussion about the moral obligations that come with using such terrible weapons. Additionally, harmful effects on the communities where testing occurred, such as Los Alamos, is inevitable. Radiation exposure resulted in extensive damage, fatalities, and long-term health effects in the immediate aftermath. The moral puzzle surrounding the deployment of nuclear weapons, as emphasized by individuals such as J. Robert Oppenheimer and other scientists associated with the Manhattan Project, emphasizes how critical it is to consider the ramifications of releasing such a devastating force. “A few people laughed, a few people cried, most people were silent.” When considering the employment of modern weapons, it is crucial to carefully evaluate the aftermath and the long-term impact on human lives and the environment. This is powerfully reminded by the terrible images of the blasted cities and the humanitarian toll of nuclear warfare. Radioactive materials set upon cities are known to have high fallout levels of radiation, which cause even further delay in rescue of persons affected by the radius of explosion, and redevelopment of the affected area. The Manhattan Project's historical legacy

forces us to critically consider how we negotiate the difficult path of moral decision in the outcome of weapon deployment.

Questions to Consider (Topic 2)

- How can a plan be put in place for the redevelopment of affected areas?
- How will the aftermath of our weapon use impact future scientific weapons projects?
- What should happen with the Manhattan project, and its sites after the use of its weapons conclude?
- How can Los Alamos be effectively cleaned?
- Is there a need for disarmament and/or recovery programs for affected communities, from the government?
- What can be a diplomatic response to the aftermath of weapon use, from key players involved?

Conclusion

In summary, the Manhattan Project is seen as a critical point in human history that brought out both significant technological advances and difficult moral choices. The first atomic bombs were successfully developed by this project, which had profound effects that changed the geopolitical environment and the path of World War II. But the use of nuclear bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki caused great suffering for people and started long-lasting discussions about the morality of having such devastating results. This project brought up some ethical issues that are still relevant today, such as faith in our capacity to manage state of the art technology ethically and the effects of using weapons. The history of the Manhattan Project serves as a continuous reminder of how important it is for scientific and military projects to take ethics into account. This historical turning point emphasizes the continuous need to strike a balance between the advancement of technology and a strong commitment to the preservation of mankind as well as the ethical management of powerful inventions.

Connections to SDG:

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

- Target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates.
- The Manhattan Project and nuclear weapons underscore the need to address violence, as their development and use contribute to the potential for catastrophic violence and high death rates. Achieving global peace requires careful consideration and ethical decision-making in managing such powerful technologies.
- Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.
- The Manhattan Project highlights the importance of developing effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels. The ethical considerations surrounding nuclear weapons demand responsible governance and institutional transparency to navigate the complexities associated with their development, use, and aftermath.

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

- Target 3.4: By 2030, reduce by one-third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment.
- Following the use of a weapon, measures to protect health and wellbeing must take into account the effects of radiation exposure on the body as well as other relevant factors.
- Target 3.9: Substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination.
- Nuclear weapons, through their testing and deployment, contribute to hazardous chemicals and environmental contamination. The Manhattan Project's legacy underscores the importance of substantially reducing deaths and illnesses related to such pollutants in air, water, and soil, aligning with the broader goal of achieving good health and well-being.

SDG 13: Climate Action

- Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters.
- The environmental effects of using nuclear weapons must be taken into account alongside with efforts to combat climate change, particularly when it comes to minimizing long-term ecological harm.
- Target 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising, and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning.
- Recognizing the environmental implications of nuclear weapons, there is a need to improve education, awareness-raising, and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning. Integrating lessons from the nuclear era can enhance global efforts to address climate change and build resilience against its adverse effects.



Helpful Graphs/Data:

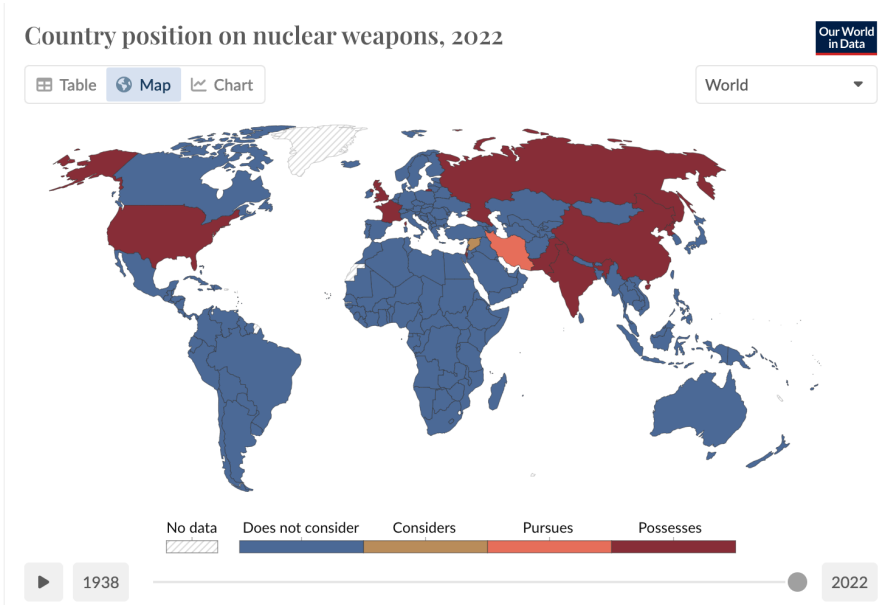
Global Nuclear Stockpiles Over Time:



“A substantial share of warheads are deployed on ballistic missiles or

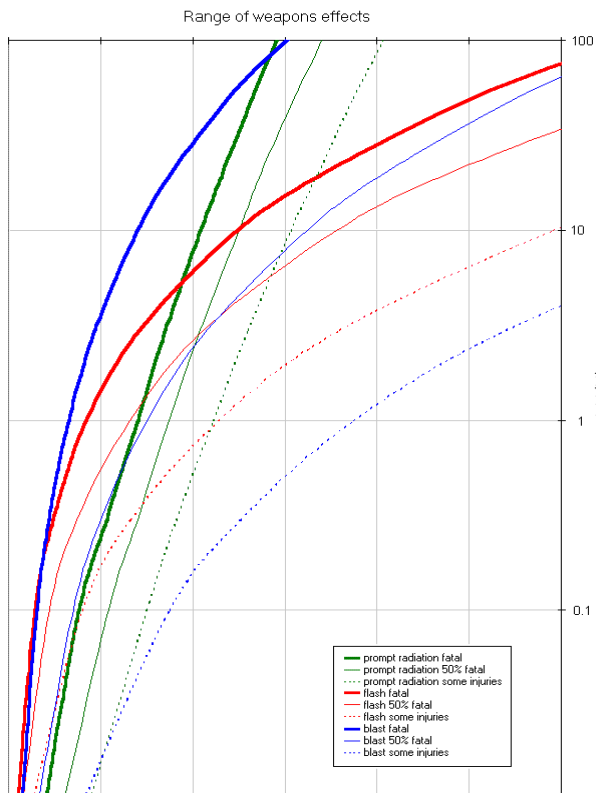
bomber bases and can be used quickly. Others are in reserve, and some are even queued for dismantlement.” (Our World Data - Nuclear Weapons by Max Roser, Bastian Herre and Joe Hasell)

Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons:



“The world’s nuclear powers possess around 9,500 nuclear warheads in total. These weapons have the capacity to kill hundreds of millions of people directly, and billions due to subsequent effects on agriculture.” (Our World Data - Nuclear Weapons by Max Roser, Bastian Herre and Joe Hasell)

Range of Nuclear Weapon Effect



“The world’s nuclear powers have nearly 10,000 nuclear warheads in their arsenals. These weapons have the capacity to kill millions directly and through their impact on agriculture have likely the potential to kill billions.” (Our World Data - Nuclear Weapons by Max Roser, Bastian Herre and Joe Hasell)

Conclusive Questions to Ponder:

Ethical Responsibility and Accountability:

- How can the committee ensure ethical responsibility and accountability for the consequences of developing and deploying nuclear weapons? What mechanisms or frameworks can be established to address the moral implications of their actions?

International Cooperation and Diplomacy:

- In the aftermath of potential weapon use, how can the committee foster international cooperation and diplomatic efforts to mitigate humanitarian and environmental consequences? What diplomatic strategies can be employed to address global concerns and build trust among nations?

Long-Term Containment and Security:

- What steps can be taken to ensure long-term weapons removal and security, considering the potential increase of nuclear weapons? How can the committee contribute to international efforts aimed at preventing the further spread of such destructive capabilities?

Scientific Advancement and Dual-Use Technology:

- Given the dual-use nature of nuclear technology, how can the committee balance scientific advancement with the potential for misuse? What guidelines or safeguards can be implemented to prevent unintended consequences and ensure that scientific progress serves humanity's best interests?

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